

UNCLASSIFIED

SUP. DOC. NO.

759

PRIORITY
141 DAY 1971
00.53.18Z
MSG # 007413
FROM: ADR

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* [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] *

PTTCZYUW RUHRNLE0424 1402230-CCCC--RUHNOA

ZNY CCCCC

P 202230Z MAY 71

FM CINCONAU

TO RUEKJCS/OSD/PA/ WASH DC

INFO RUEFHCA/SAFOI/WASH DC

RUHNOA/ADC/OI

RUHJCSA/SAF50701

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CNPA

SUBJ: (U) CLEARANCE OF PROPOSED NEWS RELEASE

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECURITY CLASSIFICATION GUIDE, PROGRAM 437(U),

DATED JANUARY 1970, FOLLOWING IS A PROPOSED PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FOR RELEASE FOLLOWING LAUNCH OF A SCIENTIFIC PACKAGE VIA THOR-BURNER II MISSILE BY AN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND LAUNCH CREW ON 04 MAY 1971. IF APPROVED, RELEASE WOULD BE MADE BY OSD/PA, JMSO, AND ADC HEADQUARTERS. A-CONFIRM APPROVAL.

2. CATEGORY 1 ACTION DEEMED APPROPRIATE.

3. THIS MESSAGE CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL PENDING OSD/PA APPROVAL FOR RELEASE.

4. QUOTE SCIENTIFIC SATELLITE LAUNCHED SEVERAL SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS WERE LAUNCHED INTO EARTH ORBIT TODAY BY A UNIT

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OF THE U. S. AIR FORCE AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND (ADC). THE INSTRUMENTS WERE LAUNCHED ATOP A TWO-STAGE THOR-BURNER II MISSILE FROM VANDENBURG AIR FORCE BASE (AFB), CALIF., BY ADC'S 10TH AEROSPACE DEFENSE SQUADRON (ADS). THE PAYLOAD AND SECOND STAGE WERE PROVIDED BY THE AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND (AFSC) AS PART OF A SPACE EXPERIMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM. THE THOR BOOSTER, OR FIRST STAGE, IS ALSO USED BY ADC IN THE COMMAND'S ROLE OF PROVIDING A LIMITED CAPABILITY TO DESTROY HOSTILE SATELLITES. ADC'S ANTI-SATELLITE MISSION IS PERFORMED BY THE 10TH ADS PERSONNEL ON JOHNSTON ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN. TODAY'S LAUNCH NOT ONLY HELPED PROVIDE TRAINING FOR THE 10TH ADS CREW BUT ALSO WAS CONDUCTED AT CONSIDERABLY LESS COST THAN SIMILAR LAUNCHES BY CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS.

ADC MAINTAINS A NETWORK OF RADARS TO TRACK AND HELP IDENTIFY ALL EARTH-ORBITING OBJECTS, AND ANOTHER NETWORK TO WARN OF ICBM ATTACK. THESE WARNING SYSTEMS ARE LATER ADDITIONS TO THE MORE CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT SURVEILLANCE AND WARNING RADARS OPERATED BY THE COMMAND SINCE

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEARS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER
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INFO

DLF-2

DMH-1

DO-2

HYO-1

DMH-1

DMH-1

DOH-2

XP-1

14 AERO-3

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ITS CONCEPTION MORE THAN TWO DECADES AGO, OPERATING THE SPACE SURVEILLANCE AND THOR SYSTEMS TAKES ACC THE ONLY AIR FORCE MAJOR COMMAND WITH AN ACTIVE SPACE MISSION.

THE THOR WAS LAUNCHED AT----- PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME (PDT) TODAY. SPACE DEFENSE CENTER ORBITAL ANALYSTS REPORTED THAT THE PAYLOAD

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OF INSTRUMENTS COMPLETED ITS FIRST ORBIT AT-----PDT.

DURING THE 15-REVOLUTION, POLAR-ORBIT FLIGHT, THE AFSC PAYLOAD INSTRUMENTS WILL CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS IN MAPPING INFERRED SOURCES IN THE CELESTIAL SPHERE, AND A CORRELATION OF IONIZATION SURROUNDING A PAYLOAD AS A FUNCTION OF THE PAYLOAD'S VELOCITY--IN OTHER WORDS, TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THE VELOCITY OF AN ORBITING OBJECT DETERMINE THE DEGREE OF IONIZATION AROUND IT.

IONIZATION, OR ELECTRICAL CHARGING OF PARTICLES, IS BELIEVED TO CAUSE THE FAMILIAR RADIO 'BLACKOUT' OF SPACE CAPSULES DURING REENTRY OF THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. THIS PROBLEM HAS PERSISTED FROM JOHN GLENN'S PREMIER ORBITAL FLIGHT THROUGH APOLLO MOON MISSIONS.

THE IONIZATION EXPERIMENT OF THE SATELLITE LAUNCHED TODAY IS TO COLLECT DATA THAT MIGHT EVENTUALLY FORM THE BASIS FOR A NEW CELESTIAL NAVIGATIONAL TOOL-- DETERMINING SPEED OF A SPACE VEHICLE FROM ION CONCENTRATION ON IT.

DURING ITS FIRST ORBITS, THE THOR-BOOSTED SATELLITE WAS TRACKED BY SPACETRACK RADARS, PROVIDING THE DATA BY WHICH THE ANALYSTS DETERMINED THE TIME OF INITIAL ORBITS.

ADC FORCES CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY OF RESOURCES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN

AIR DEFENSE COMMAND (NORAD), WHICH OPERATES A SPACE DEFENSE CENTER IN ITS COMBAT OPERATIONS CENTER, LOCATED BENEATH CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN OUTSIDE COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.

BOTH ADC AND NORAD ARE HEADQUARTERED IN COLORADO SPRINGS.

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